REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were previously canceled. In this amendment, claims 21, 27, 34, 35, 40, 44 and 45 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 21, 22, 27, 32-34 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent no. 5,787,253 of McCreery et al. ("McCreery"). Claims 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 35, 37, 39, 40, and 42-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on McCreery.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. The amendments to the claims are made only to place the claims in what Applicants consider to be better form. The amendments are not made in response to the rejections or to comply with any statutory requirement of patentability since, as discussed below, no such amendments are believed to be necessary.

The present invention generally relates to a method and apparatus that allow a user (e.g., a network administrator) to pre-configure the logging of message fields by a network cache. Among other features, embodiments of the invention give the user the choice to include or exclude particular message fields from a log format for subsequently received messages and give the user the ability to specify the order in which each particular field will appear in a log file.

For example, claim 34 provides:

34. (Currently amended) A device for logging information in a network cache, the device comprising:

a user interface to allow a user to select a protocol, to select for logging some or all of a plurality of fields of a message **to be received**, the fields corresponding to the selected protocol, and to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear relative to each other in a log file;

a protocol specific application module to obtain information for each selected field associated with the message;

a protocol independent log module to receive information for each selected field from the protocol specific application module and to store the information for each selected field in a log file in the sequence specified by the user.

(Emphasis added.)

McCreery does not disclose or even suggest a device such as recited in claim 34. First, as previously stated, McCreery does not disclose or suggest enabling a user to select a protocol in relation to logging of messages (the Examiner is reminded that he must read all claim limitations together, so that no individual limitation loses its significance). Second, nowhere does McCreery disclose or suggest enabling a user to select for logging particular fields of a message that is to be received. Third, McCreery fails to disclose or suggest enabling a user to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear relative to each other in a log file. Fourth, McCreery does not disclose or suggest that a protocol independent log module receives information for each selected field from a protocol specific application module and stores the information for each selected field in a log file in the sequence specified by the user.

Regarding the first and fourth points, Applicants respectfully maintain their arguments on those points from their response to the previous Office Action, which was filed on April 11, 2005. Those points are discussed further below.

Regarding the second point, McCreery discloses a technique and system for monitoring and analyzing Internet activity and gathering statistics on such activity. McCreery discloses that the system can, for example, sort and filter raw data that is gathered (col. 4, lines 59-62; col. 10, lines 44-50). Selected data can be displayed on a display device, and an output communication module 328 includes routines for configuring data reports. "The data report routines . . . can be customized according to each particular application" (col. 7, lines 64-67).

However, all of these functions are performed after the messages have been received and the corresponding raw data have been logged by the system. In contrast, the present invention as claimed allows a user to pre-configure the logging of subsequently received messages; for example, claim 34 specifies: " . . . to allow a user. . . to select for logging some or all of a plurality of fields of a message to be received, . . . and to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear . . . in a log file" (emphasis added). McReery does not disclose or suggest this capability to pre-configure logging of subsequently received messages.

Regarding the third point mentioned above, McCreery also fails to disclose or suggest enabling a user to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear relative to each other in a log file. (The phrase "relative to each other" has been added to the claims merely as clarification. It is believed that this language was implied in Applicants' previous claim language and is superfluous.) The Examiner cites the sorting ability disclosed in McReery as reading on this claim feature. McCreery discloses that logged data, such as shown in table 600

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in Figure 6a, may be sorted <u>by nodes in a transaction</u> (col. 4, lines 59-62; col. 10, lines 44-50). An example of the sorted result is shown in Fig. 6b. In Figs. 6a and 6b, each data entry corresponds to a packet (e.g., note packet ID field 605, and see generally col. 10, lines 33-67). Note that a "transaction", as used by McCreery, comprises a plurality of packet exchanges (col. 10, lines 3-4). A "packet", as used by McCreery, generally comprises a plurality of <u>fields</u> (col. 4, lines 35). Thus, McCreery only discloses sorting packet data entries (each of which may include various fields) <u>relative to other packet data entries</u> (e.g., sorting "by nodes in a transaction"; col. 10, line 45)

In contrast, the present invention as claimed allows a user to specify a sequence in which the selected message <u>fields</u> are to appear <u>relative to each other</u> in a log file. McCreery does not disclose or suggest such capability.

As to the Examiner's comments about the "user interface" limitation on page 14 of the Final Office Action (second paragraph), Applicants have not argued that McCreery fails to disclose a user interface. Applicants have argued (and maintain their argument) that McCreery fails to disclose a user interface <u>that does</u> what the user interface in Applicants' claims does (as discussed above). McCreery's disclosure that a report routine (algorithm) can be customized is no suggestion of the specific user interface capabilities recited in Applicants' claims.

The Examiner mistakenly cites McCreery as disclosing the recited user interface functionality at col. 7, lines 7-16 and 60-67 and col. 5, lines 30-42. The cited text states that selected data can be displayed on a display device, and that an output communication module 328 includes routines for configuring data

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reports. It also states that the data report routines . . . can be customized according to each particular application" (col. 7, lines 64-67)(emphasis added). However, unlike Applicants' claims, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion in McCreery of allowing a user to select a protocol in relation to logging of messages, to select particular fields of a message to be received for logging, and/or to specify a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear relative to each other in a log file.

As previously argued, McCreery also does not disclose or suggest that a protocol independent log module receives information for each selected field from a protocol specific application module and stores the information for each selected field in a log file in the sequence specified by the user. The Examiner did not respond to Applicants' arguments on this point from the previous response. The Examiner incorrectly cites McCreery as disclosing this functionality at col. 5, lines 30-43; col. 2, lines 16-20 and 46-49; and col. 7, lines 27-32 and 51-59. Applicants find no disclosure or suggestion of this functionality there or anywhere else in McCreery.

For each of the foregoing reasons, therefore, independent claim 34 is neither anticipated by nor obvious based on McCreery. Therefore, claim 34 and all claims which depend on it are patentable over the cited art.

Each of the other independent claims includes limitations similar to those in claim 34 discussed above, and other limitations. Therefore, each of those other independent claims and their dependent claims are also patentable over the cited art, for similar reasons.

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Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.
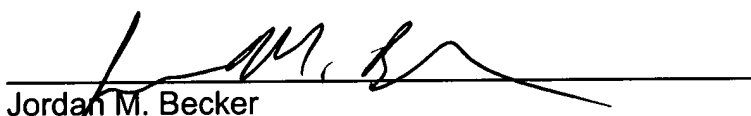
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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